**Informative Research Product Organizer**

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| **Research Topic:** Ovarian Cancer |

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| **Focusing Statement:** Though there is treatment and chemotherapy for Ovarian Cancer, there is always a chance that it will never go away and kill the patient. |

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| **Essential Background Information for Introduction:**  Ovarian cancer occurs when a cancerous tumor is in a woman’s ovary. In most cases, there are no known causes. There are often no symptoms, but ovarian cancer warning signs include ongoing pain or cramps in the belly or back, abnormal vaginal bleeding, and nausea and bloating. Depending on the cancer stage, ovarian cancer treatment includes surgery and chemotherapy. (WebMD) |

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| **Potential Hook/Grabber (**Story, anecdote, quote about your issue**):** No matter how much surgery you get, how much chemotherapy you get, women with Ovarian Cancer have to fight thru life trying to get pass this awful disease. Most |

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| **Topic 1: Treatment** | |
| **Explanation**  Chemotherapy:   * Every cancer patient has the option to chemotherapy. * Chemotherapy has many side effects | **Evidence/Quotes:**   * “Doctors use a Platinum-based drug such as carboplatin (Paraplatin), or Cisplatin with a taxane such as Paclitaxel or docetaxel (Taxotere).” (WebMD) * “There is two different ways you can administer chemotherapy, IV or IP (intraperitoneal).” (WebMD) * Chemotherapy is given cycles, and the patient will be given the chemo every few weeks then a rest period (WEBMD) * Patients usually get six, three week cycles of chemo for a total of 18 weeks (WebMD) * Intraperitoneal is delivered into an abdominal cavity using a tube or catheter (WEBMD) * It bathes the cancer cells directly in the cancer killing drugs * The IP port is usually directly put in during debulking surgery * IP plus IV chemotherapy helps extend the patient’s life by 18 months then just IV chemo alone * IP chemotherapy has increased risk of side effects like infection and including in the catheter * The most promising drug is Avastin, an antiangiogenesis inhibitor. * It works by stopping new blood vessel growth |
| **Explanation**  Surgery | **Evidence/Quotes:**   * Laparotomy: doctors perform through a large abdominal incision, most often removing your ovaries, uterus, fallopian tubes, lymph glands. Also know as debulking. (Cancer Center) * Frozen section tissue analysis: is when a piece of tissue from the tumor is removed and analyzed to see if it’s cancerous or noncancerous. * Laparoscopy is a minimally invasive surgery that may be used depending on the extent of the cancer when the patient is first diagnosed. * Unilateral salpingo-oophorectomy: surgical removal of the one ovary and one fallopian tube * Bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy: surgical or both ovaries and fallopian tube. * Totally hysterectomy: surgical removal of uterus, including cervix * Omentectomy: surgical removal of part of all of the omentum, a fold of fatty tissue inside the abdomen * Bowel resection: surgical removal of part of small and large intestine * Diaphgrahm of appendix surgery: surgical removal of part of all of each organ (Cancer Center) * Lymph node biopsy: surgical removal of part or all one or more lymph nodes in the abdomen (Cancer Center) * Abdominal fluid biopsy: removal of a fluid sample from the abdomen (if there is fluid is present) to be sampled and tested. A catheter also many be installed to drain the exccess fluid (Cancer Center) |
| **Explanation** | **Evidence /Quotes:** |

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| **Topic 2: Genetic mutation/causes** | |
| **Explanation**  BRCA1 and BRCA2 | **Evidence/Quotes:**   * BRCA1 and BRCA2: human genes that belong to a class of genes called tumor suppressors. (NCI) * BRCA1 and BRCA2 in normal cells ensure the cell’s DNA and help cell growth * With mutations to the genes, they have linked to the development and hereditary breast and ovarian cancer. * BRCA: BReast CAncer. (NCI) * Deleterious mutations are harmful * Even if you have the gene, it does not mean you will get breast or ovarian cancer. * My grandmother died of Breast Cancer, so my mom had to get tested for mutation on the BRCA1 gene and she doesn’t have a mutation, my sister and I will eventually have to get a test too. * When my mother got tested, they did not have BRCA2 test available * Women have a bigger risk of getting cancer before menopause * Having the BRCA1 mutation puts women at risk of getting breast, ovarian, cervical, uterine, pancreatic and colon cancer. * BRCA2 mutation puts a women at risk of pancreatic cancer, stomach cancer, gallbladder and bile duct cancer and melanoma * Deleterious mutations in BRCA1 or 2 is most likely with families that have multiple cases of breast cancer * Blood samples are used for these tests. * BRCA1 or 2 tests cost from $100 to thousand dollars. (NCI) |
| **Explanation**  CA125 | **Evidence/Quotes:**   * A protein that is a tumor marker * Tumor marker: a substance that is found in greater concentration in tumor cells in other cells in the body * It is presented in ovarian cancer cells then any other cells. * The function of this protein is not understood. * CA: cancer antigen * Measured by a blood sample, can be measured in fluid from the chest of abdominal cavity * Based upon the use of an antibody that is directed against the CA 125 protein (monoclonal antibody technique) * The normal range for CA 125 is 35 U/ml * If the CA 125 levels are high, that does not mean you have a malignant tumor. * Patients with a CA 125 level greater than 65 associated with malignancy in approx. 90% of cases. * Blood is drawn from a vein from the inside of the elbow or back of the hand * The blood collects into an airtight vial or tube attached to the needle. |
| **Explanation**  Hereditary breast and Ovarian Cancer Syndrome | **Evidence /Quotes:**   * HBOC is associated with mutations in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 * Women with HBOC have a increased risk of breast and ovarian cancer * Features in the family :   + Early age of onset breast cancer before 50 years old   + Family history of both breast and ovarian cancer   + Increased chance of bilateral cancers (cancers in both breasts or both ovaries) or an individual with both breast and ovarian cancer   + Autosomal dominant pattern of inheritance (transmission trhough either mother or father’s side of the family)   + Increased incidence of tumors of other specific organs like the prostate   + Family history of male breast cancer   + Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry |
| **Explanation**  Lynch Syndrome | **Evidence /Quotes:**   * Increases a women’s risk of ovarian and uterine cancer * caused by mutations in several different genes * increases the risk of colorectal cancer as well as stomach, small intestine, liver, bile duct, urinary tract, the brain and CNS system and possibly bresat. * About 160,000 people have colorectal cancer and about 2 or 7% of these cancers have Lynch Syndrome. |
| **Explanation**  Peutz-Jeghers Syndrome | **Evidence /Quotes:**   * caused by a specific genetic mutation and associated with multiple polpys in the digestive tract that become noncancerous tumors, increased pigmentation * PJs is due to the mutation in the gene STK11 * Passed down through families as an autosomal dominant trait * Clubbed fingers of toes * Blood in stool * Vomitting * Brownish or bluish gray pigmented spots on the lips, gums, inner lining of the mouth, skin * Cramping in the belly area * Dark freckles on and around the lips of a newborn |
| **Explanation**  Nevoid basal cell syndrome | **Evidence /Quotes:**   * increased risk of developing fibromas (benign fibrous tumors) of the ovaries * the fibromas could turn intofibrosarcoma, a type of ovarian cancer * abnormalies on the PTCH gene * also known as Gorlin syndrome |
| **Explanation** Factors | **Evidences/ Quotes**   * “Including solvents, dyes, organic dusts (paper dust, wood dust), triazine herbicides, and talc (when used in the genital area).” (Health and Environment) * “For example, working in the graphics and printing industries is associated with an increased risk of ovarian cancer, suggesting that solvents used in those industries might be involved.” (Health and Environment) * “A large Swedish study has suggested that women who work in the paper and packaging industry, the lumber and carpentry industry, and the textile and shoe industry, may also be at increased risk of ovarian cancer.” (Health and Environment) * “Most studies suggest a slight increase in risk of ovarian cancer in women who used talc on the genital area.” (Health and Environment) |

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| **Topic 3: Symptoms** | |
| **Explanation**  Ovarian Cancer | **Evidence/Quotes:**   * Abnormal vaginal or bleeding discharge * Pelvic pain or pressure * Bloating * Changes in bathroom habits   + Peeing more * Nausea, gas, indigestion, conspitation * Shortness of breath * Feeling tired all of the time * Swollen or bloated abdomen * Getting full quickly |

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